

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 266527

14

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 PPT-01 PA-01 PRS-01 FBIE-00 SY-05

DHA-02 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /058 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/AND/V:TWSONANDRES

APPROVED BY ARA - MR. SHLAUDEMANN

ARA/PPC - MR. YOHNN (IN DRAFT)

SCA - MR. DAVIS (SUBSTANCE)

ARA/AND - MR. DEVINE

----- 127889

O 282355Z OCT 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 266527

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SOPN, VE

SUBJECT: EXPULSION OF U.S. JOURNALISTS

REF: CARACAS 12667

1. TAYLOR BRANCH OF ESQUIRE CONTACTED DEPARTMENT OCTOBER 26, PROVIDING ESSENTIALLY SAME ACCOUNT AS REFTTEL OF OCTOBER 22 EXPULSION AND SEVERAL ADDITIONAL ASPECTS WHICH FOLLOW IN PARAS TWO TO FOUR.

2. BRANCH BEGAN THAT HE TRAVELLED TO CARACAS TO GATHER MATERIAL FOR ARTICLE ON LETELIER MURDER, ASKING RETIRED JOURNALIST AND FRIEND ROTHCHILD TO ASSIST WITH SPANISH. MS. INCLAN NOT INVOLVED WITH HIS ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF TRIP. THE THREE ARRIVED OCTOBER 21, 11 P.M. AT MAIQUETIA ON PANAM FLT. GOING THROUGH CUSTOMS, BRANCH WAS SURPRISED TO SEE RICARDO MORALES, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS ANTI-CASTRO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 266527

CUBAN EXILE, EX-INFORMANT OF CIA AND FBI, OF GANGLAND

MIAMI, AND ONE OF VARIOUS HE HAD INTERVIEWED AT LENGTH SEVERAL YEARS AGO IN MIAMI WHEN DOING STORY ON EXILES. HE FURTHER SURPRISED THAT MORALES EMBRACED DADE COUNTY PROSECUTORS, ALSO ON FLIGHT, AND GAVE ORDERS TO AIRPORT SECURITY PERSONNEL. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, BRANCH, INCLAN, AND ROTHCHILD WERE ASKED TO SURRENDER PASSPORTS,

WERE TAKEN TO HOLDING ROOM FOR ONE HOUR, PRESENTED WITH SUBPOENAS (CITACIONES, IN SPANISH) TO APPEAR FOR INTERIOR MINISTRY 9 A.M. APPOINTMENT, ALL WITHOUT EXPLANATION FOR PROCEDURE.

3. AFTER BIZARRE SERIES EVENTS INCLUDING QUOTE BREAKDOWN UNQUOTE HOTEL AVILA SWITCHBOARD AND OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PREVENTING THEIR PLACING CALLS, ROTHCHILD AND BRANCH WENT TO SLEEP AT 4 A.M. IN HOTEL AVILA ROOM. AT 5 A.M., MORALES BURST INTO ROOM UNANNOUNCED IN DRAMATIC FASHION, SWOOPED UP THEIR PAPERS, SAYING LOUDLY QUOTE TAC TAC UNQUOTE AND MARCHING OUT DOOR. LOBBY THEN PHONED THAT QUOTE THEY WAITING FOR YOU UNQUOTE. MOMENTS LATER, DOWNSTAIRS, MORALES TOLD THE THREE TO PAY BILL. THEY THEN LEFT IN A CAR, TRAVELLING UP TO 120 KM. PER HOUR, UNINFORMED OF DESTINATION OR REASON FOR THEIR TREATMENT. MORALES ACCOMPANIED IN REAR SEAT WITH WALKIE-TALKIE, DENYING ANY PAST RELATIONSHIP WITH BRANCH AND REFUSING TO TALK EXCEPT FOR OCCASIONAL OUTBURST (E.G. QUOTE BE THANKFUL FOR THE FREE RIDE. UNQUOTE) THEY ARRIVED AT MAIQUETIA AND WERE ESCORTED TO A WAITING ROOM. LATER, OVER BREAKFAST IN QUOTE DISIP-TYPE ROOM UNQUOTE, MORALES DISCUSSED BASEBALL, SAID THEY ALL WOULD SOON LEAVE COUNTRY AND THAT NO PHONE CALLS WOULD BE PERMITTED. NEXT FEW HOURS SUMMARIZED BY MORE WAITING ROOMS, JOURNALISTS' UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO TAKE A TAXI OR MAKE A PHONE CALL FROM AIRPORT PAY PHONES, NOTES PASSED TO OTHER PASSENGERS, A SIT-IN ON THE VIASA BOARDING RAMP, BEING MENACED BY BLACKJACKS, AND FINALLY, AN EARLY AFTERNOON DEPARTURE BY ROTHCHILD WHO, THE THREE AGREED SHOULD CARRY NEWS OF THE INCIDENT TO U.S.

4. LATER, A CARLOS ENRIQUEZ (PHONETIC) WHO IDENTIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 266527

HIMSELF AS CHIEF OF CARACAS IMMIGRATION, GAVE TWO FIRST EXPLANATION OF PROBLEM, THAT THERE WAS IRREGULARITY IN INCLAN'S PAPERS AND THAT BRANCH WAS FREE TO ENTER COUNTRY. BRANCH ASKED TO MAKE PHONE CALL BEFORE DECIDING. AFTER HOUR DELAY AND CHECK WITH CARACAS, VISAS OF INCLAN AND BRANCH WERE STAMPED QUOTE REVOKED UNQUOTE BUT THEY TOLD THEM THEY WOULD NOT BE FORCED TO LEAVE. THE TWO, AFTER DECIDING AMONG THEMSELVES THAT THEY WOULD GET NOWHERE

REMAINING IN VENEZUELA WITHOUT PROPER DOCUMENTATION,
OPTED TO DEPART ON PANAM FLIGHT AT 4 P.M.

5. ADDITIONALLY DEPARTMENT INFORMED THAT MIAMI HERALD
REPORTER SAM JACOBS WAS SEARCHED BY TWO DISIP OFFICIALS
AT MAIQUETIA BEFORE DEPARTURE ON VIASA FLIGHT OCTOBER 20,
FOLLOWING FOUR-DAY STAY IN CARACAS. ACCORDING JACOBS,

HE HAD NOTICED DISIP OFFICIAL EARLIER THAT MORNING
WATCHING HIM AT HIS HOTEL, BUT HE WAS NOT APPROACHED UNTIL
HE WAS IN AIRPORT WAITING ROOM. THEREUPON, DISIP
PRESENTED THEIR CREDENTIALS AND ESCORTED HIM TO SECOND
FLOOR OFFICE, OPENED HIS SUITCASE, XEROXED ALL PRINTED
MATERIAL (MOSTLY NEWS CLIPS), LOOKED AT EVERYTHING IN
HIS POCKETS, RETURNING EVERYTHING EXCEPT HIS NOTEBOOK
WHICH WAS CONFISCATED. JACOBS SAYS NOTEBOOK CONTAINED
LARGELY ILLEGIBLE NOTES AND NO INFORMATION HARMFUL TO
ANYONE, ALTHOUGH HE IS CONCERNED ABOUT NOTEBOOK'S LIST OF
NAMES AND PHONE NUMBERS, PRINCIPALLY OF OTHER JOURNALISTS,
WITH WHOM HE HAD TALKED DURING CARACAS STAY. JACOBS
SAID THE OFFICIALS WERE QUOTE POLITE BUT FIRM UNQUOTE.
THEY DID NOT MARK HIS PASSPORT AND RETURNED HIM TO BUS IN
TIME TO CATCH SCHEDULED FLIGHT.

6. WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED OVER THIS REPORTED MISTREATMENT
OF U.S. JOURNALISTS (ALL ARE AMERICAN CITIZENS EXCEPT
MS. INCLAN, WHO EVIDENTLY IS TO BECOME ONE SHORTLY).
FOR THE MOMENT, HOWEVER, WE WISH ONLY TO ASCERTAIN FACTS.
CONTRARY TO OCTOBER 25 GOV RELEASE (PARA. 8 REFTEL),
BRANCH STATES (1) THAT THE THREE DID NOT REFUSE GO DISIP
BUT, UNTIL SPIRITED TO AIRPORT EARLY HOURS OF OCTOBER 22,
EXPECTED TO APPEAR AT ANNOUNCED 9 A.M. INTERIOR MINISTRY
APPOINTMENT, HOPEFULLY TO OBTAIN FOR FIRST TIME EXPLANA-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 266527

TION OF TREATMENT, AND (2) THAT THE THREE WERE PROHIBITED
FROM PHONING ANYONE INCLUDING THEIR EDITORS IN U.S.
JACOBS PARTICULARLY MYSTIFIED AS TO HIS SEARCH.

7. ACTION: WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY OBTAINING RESPONSE
FROM APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES ON JACOBS' REPORT IN
ADDITION TO THAT BEING OBTAINED ON OTHER THREE (PARA. 9,
REFTEL). KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPULSION, JOURNALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE266527
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TWSONANDRES
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760403-0513
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976107/aaaaafwp.tel
Line Count: 162
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 CARACAS 12667
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <01 NOV 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXPULSION OF U.S. JOURNALISTS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SOPN, VE, US
To: CARACAS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006